Reasons for high export growth

787. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports crossed US Dollars 60 billion in the first ten months of this fiscal year;

(b) whether it is a fact that this figure is 26 per cent higher than the figure of exports for the corresponding period last fiscal years;

(c) to what extent is this high export figure due to the falling value of the US Dollar;

(d) what were the actual exports in rupee terms for this 10 months period; and

(e) steps proposed to carefully encourage exports in such sectors which are not dependent on oil for their production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) More than exchange rate variations, the significant increase in exports during the current financial year was on account of the growing competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing sector and the vigorous export-led growth strategy followed by the Government for doubling India's share in global merchandise trade in the next five years.

(d) In rupee terms, exports are provisionally valued at Rs. 2,74,314 crores during April-January, 2004-05.

(e) One of the strategies announced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of August 2004 was to give special thrust to Agriculture, Handlooms, Handicraft, Gems & Jewellery and Leather sectors, which besides being labour intensive sectors, are also not oil dependent sectors.

Profit and loss making foreign investors

788. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and size of foreign investors in India making profit and the percentage of foreign investors who have reached break even; and

(b) the number and size of foreign investors who make losses?